

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

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FOR OES/APT/BMP FOR WALSH

DEPT PASS NIH FOR DR. QUINN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TBIO, JA

SUBJECT: JAPANESE GUIDELINES TO CONTROL RECOMBINANT DNA RESEARCH

1. PRESS ARTICLES REPORTED MAY 8 THAT THE SCIENCE COUNCIL OF JAPAN WILL BEGIN DELIBERATIONS ON THE ADOPTION OF GUIDELINES TO CONTROL THE RESEARCH INTO RECOMBINANT DNA IN JAPAN. THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PLASMID RESEARCH SUBMITTED ITS REPORT TO THE FULL SCIENCE COUNCIL ON APRIL 26. THE SUBCOMMITTEE WAS CHAIRED BY DR. YATARO TAJIMA OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF GENETICS.

2. THE SUBCOMMITTEE'S REPORT CONTAINS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE CONTROL OF RECOMBINANT DNA RESEARCH VERY MUCH SIMILAR TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE NIH GUIDELINES. THE REPORT RECOMMENDS THAT RESEARCH CONDUCTED AT THE P-1 AND P-2 LEVELS (AS DEFINED UNDER THE NIH GUIDELINES) BE AUTHORIZED TO BE CONDUCTED IN SUITABLE FACILITIES. THE REPORT ALSO RECOMMENDS THAT AN ORGANIZATION BE ESTABLISHED TO ALLOW SCIENTISTS WORKING IN THIS FIELD TO AIR THEIR VIEWS AND EXPERIENCES TO THE SCIENCE COUNCIL SO THAT THESE VIEWS CAN BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT BEFORE THE FINAL DECISION IS MADE ON THE FORMAL GUIDELINES. THE ORGANIZATION WILL ALSO BE A
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SOURCE OF INFORMATION FOR RESEARCHERS WITH QUESTIONS ABOUT PROCEDURES OR REGULATIONS FOR DNA RESEARCH CONTROLS.

3. SINCE JAPAN HAS NO LABORATORIES SUITABLE FOR THE CONDUCT OF EXPERIEMENTS AT THE P-3 OR P-4 LEVELS (AS DEFINED BY THE NIH GUIDELINES) NO SUCH WORK WILL BE

AUTHORIZED. HOWEVER, THE REPOR RECOMMENDS THAT THE
GOJ SUBSIDIZE THE CONSTRUTION OF SUCH FACILITIES SO
THAT THIS RESEARCH CAN BEGIN IN JAPAN. THE REPORT
ALSO REQUESTS THAT THE GOJ PAY FOR RESEARCHERS TO STUDY
ABROAD (PRESEUMABLY IN THE U.S.) TO LEARN SAFETY
TECHNIQUES FOR USE N JAPANEE LABORATORIES.

4. EMBASSY'S INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE
REPORT WILL BE POUCHED TO OES/APT/BMP FOR DISTRIBUTION
TO INTERESTED USG AGENCIES.
SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

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